



Inaugural Newsletter



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*The White House Commission on
Remembrance*

Photo: Time of Remembrance Tribute

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends:

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the White House Commission on Remembrance newsletter. The Commission encourages Americans to honor the sacrifices of our Nation's fallen and the families they left behind. This quarterly newsletter will inform you about the valuable work that the Commission does on behalf of those who died in service to our country.

The Commission, established by Congress in 2000, proudly promotes the *National Moment of Remembrance* (Public Law 106-579). Americans are asked to pause at 3 p.m. local time, wherever they are, on Memorial Day for a Moment of Remembrance honoring those who died to preserve our liberty. This demonstration of unity connects us as Americans across the nation as we pause in this shared Moment.

We are enthusiastic about preparing to launch our Kickoff to the National Moment of Remembrance Campaign. Our official countdown to the Moment of Remembrance begins on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7th, and will continue until Memorial Day — 161 days later.

The enclosed newsletter will provide you with information about our Kickoff Campaign, as well as our annual Remembrance Tributes and programs. The names of every serviceman and woman who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan are also currently being placed on our website: www.remember.gov to further pay tribute to them. We vow to always honor the memory of those who died for us from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terrorism, and to let the world know that they will never be forgotten.

We appreciate your support in remembering those who died for our country. Let us “Live Honoring America’s Fallen.”

Sincerely,

Carmella LaSpada
Executive Director

Annual Remembrance Tributes



Members of the Rescue Team
Iran Hostage Rescue Mission Remembrance Tribute

October 3	Operation Restore Hope (Somalia)
October 12	USS Cole Bombing
October 23	Beirut Terrorist Bombings
October 25	Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada)
December 12	Gander Air Disaster (Newfoundland)
December 20	Operation Just Cause (Panama)
January 28	Challenger Disaster
February 27	Gulf War
April 19	Oklahoma City Bombing
April 25	Iran Hostage Rescue Mission
May 17	USS Stark Attack
TBA	Time of Remembrance Tribute
May 26	Memorial Day–National Moment of Remembrance
June 25	Khobar Towers Bombing



Commission Interns with an Air Force Chaplain
Khobar Towers Bombing Remembrance Tribute



Deputy Director of the Secret Service
Oklahoma City Bombing Remembrance Tribute



U.S. Navy Honor Guard Pays Tribute
U.S.S. Stark Attack Remembrance Tribute



Admiral John Giambastiani, Vice-Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff
Gulf War Remembrance Tribute

Time of Remembrance



The *Time of Remembrance Tribute*, which takes place on the National Mall at the Washington Monument Grounds. It is the only national event that brings together the families of America's fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan and provides them with an opportunity to meet and share their experiences.

Although nothing can be said that will remove their pain or ease the burden of loss and grief, we believe that their sorrow is easier to bear knowing that they are not alone. Along with fostering connections between families whose loved ones died in service to our country, the event also successfully demonstrates that their fellow Americans care about their loss.

Approximately 3,000 family members from 47 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam attend the *Time of Remembrance Tribute* each year. Our Nation's heritage of sacrifice is represented by descendants of fallen heroes from every war dating back to 1776.

[More Details on the Time of Remembrance](#)



General Pace, USMC comforts a recipient of the Gold Medal of Remembrance

Program Highlights

- A Gold Medal Presentation to children of our fallen heroes.
- Ringing of a replica of the Liberty Bell by wounded Troops.
- Video Presentations produced by The History Channel especially for the Commission.

The Gold Medal of Remembrance



A boy holds his Gold Medal

Medal Symbolism

- The medal's gold denotes optimism and wisdom, and embodies the emotional riches gained from a close relationship with family and friends. The flame symbolizes remembrance, hope, and freedom. The laurel wreath is the ancient symbol of honor and victory, and the gold flame within a star is the official emblem of the White House Commission on Remembrance.
- The ribbon's purple color represents the wounded heart of the child who has endured the loss of a parent, while the black line denotes remembrance.

The *Gold Medal of Remembrance* is unique in that it is the only medal that recognizes and honors the children who have recently lost a parent in service to our country. It is a tangible reminder that casualties are found on the home front as well as on the battlefield. Designed by the Institute of Heraldry, which provides special services to the US Armed Forces, federal agencies, and the Office of the President, this uniquely beautiful medal has become a truly special American tradition.

In the last two years, over 200 Gold Medals were presented to children of fallen service members from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The first 180 of these were given at the *Time of Remembrance Tribute* on the National Mall in Washington D.C in 2006. Others are being given at special ceremonies across the nation.

[More Details on the Gold Medal of Remembrance Program](#)



December 7th– Let the Countdown Begin!

Kickoff to the Moment of Remembrance Campaign

Each year at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, Americans unite in a National Moment of Remembrance which honors America's fallen and their families. During this *Moment*, 200 Amtrak trains blast their whistles, approximately 500,000 Major League Baseball fans are joined in silence, and countless other participants make a vow to remember.

In preparation for the 2008 Moment, we will begin our countdown on December 7th, the anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. This day will mark 161 days until the *National Moment of Remembrance*.

Where will you be at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day? Let the Countdown Begin!!

Help Spread the Word

- Encourage other groups and organizations to download our countdown ticker clock on their websites.
- Tell as many friends and colleagues as possible to raise awareness of this great initiative.
- **Download our:**
 - Doorknob Hangers
 - Video & Audio Clips
 - Poster
 - Flyers to post around your neighborhood
 - Sticker Art
 - Logo

[Click Here to Download Commission Media](#)



Armed Forces Joint Service Color Guard



Official Commission Ticker Clock

[See Ticker in Action](#)

Give Back to Your Country

- [Blood Donations](#)
- [Organ Donations](#)
- [Exercise your right to vote](#)



Commission Activities

REMEMBER

Internship Program

Each year, The White House Commission on Remembrance accepts interns from around the country to perform a wide variety of tasks that are critical to the daily operations of the organization. Tasks range from administrative work to special projects such as meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress, organizing Remembrance Tributes, and implementing innovative ideas that raise national awareness of the Commission and its ultimate endeavor to *Live Honoring America's Fallen*.

Events and programs that interns have participated in:

- Helping to organize the Time of Remembrance Tribute by scheduling speakers, assisting the families of the fallen, and securing the location and handling logistics for the event.
- Annual Remembrance Tributes such as the U.S.S. Stark, Iran Hostage Rescue Mission, and the Oklahoma City Bombing.
- Drafting proposals and promotional documents to send to organizations, from both the business and government sectors, to raise awareness about the Commission's initiatives

Interns at the Commission gain unparalleled knowledge about how Washington D.C. works, while simultaneously knowing that their work in remembering those who gave their lives for our liberties is constantly valued.

We are currently accepting applications for the upcoming fall and spring semesters. If you are interested in applying for a position, please fill out an application by clicking on the following link and either email it to commission@remember.gov or fax to (202) 783-1168.

[Intern Application](#)



Donations

The White House Commission on Remembrance is a 170 (c), which is non-profit status. Therefore, we rely heavily upon donations to fund our Remembrance Tributes and special programs. If you, or anyone you know are interested in contributing to our cause, please follow the links below. Payment can be made either by check or credit card.

[Donate Via Check](#)

[Donate Via Credit Card](#)

Coming soon are the Commission's special products (shown below) that will be available for purchase. All proceeds from your order will support our organization.

Sticker



Magnet





Upcoming Events

During the month of October, the White House Commission on Remembrance will be sponsoring four of its 16 Annual Remembrance Tributes. The ceremonies to be held are:

Operation Restore Hope (Somalia):	October 3
U.S.S. Cole Bombing:	October 12
Beirut Terrorist Bombings:	October 23
Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada):	October 25

Contact Us

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us. We would appreciate hearing from you. Any insight you can offer about our newsletter will be very helpful when informing you of our initiatives in the future. Contact information is below:

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If you know of anyone that might be interested in learning more about the Commission, please encourage them to sign up for our newsletter.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email us at newsletter@remember.gov

